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APRIL 2008 ISSUE 34

artsbark

editor's desk

April has come about all too quickly; apparently it is 400 years since Easter has been this early in the year, so maybe this has thrown us all a bit. Like Christmas there is a 'before and after' time frame that happens with Easter. Before Easter we at Arts Upper Hunter seemed very busy, we had the Working with Collections workshop at the Muswellbrook Regional Gallery. I was one of fourteen who did the course. There seems to be so much interest in museums at the moment, that I thought I should try and ensure that I understand the processes and background workings that are necessary to enable a museum to exist. The workshop was great for this as it was an overview of all the different aspects of working with collections. We started with developing a collection strategy and policy, then worked through, documenting/cataloguing, assessing significance of objects, displays and interpretation, and technical issues such as insurance OH&S and so on. Obviously none of this was covered in detail, however it gave an overall picture and an understanding of how all the bits feed into one another, together with an appreciation for the various skills that are needed to work in each of the different areas. To that end we would like



Working With Collections workshop with presenter Kay Soderlund (far right)

to run more specialised workshops in particular areas, so anyone interested in furthering their skills in for example in preservation, significance assessment or any of the other areas please contact us, on 6545 9727.

Still pre Easter we had Pamille Berg visit from Canberra. She gave two presentations which were slide shows demonstrating a variety of public art projects that she has been involved in and describing how they came about, who was involved and what the outcomes were. It was not only inspiring but terribly important as a reminder of the importance that art and cultural practice have in our everyday lives. At a time when local councils are sharpening their pencils, it is crucial to reflect on why it is that we bother with the arts and what is community cultural development. It is the life force that enables us to get up every morning and be proud to be human beings. It is how we express who we are, how we explore our past and our future, how we make some sense of the world we live in and learn compassion and co-existence. It is music that makes us want to dance and sing, the thrill you get from being involved, making costumes for the theatrical groups up and coming performances, learning your lines, interpreting a story again and again. How can anyone question the validity of this? Recently the board of Arts Upper Hunter had their annual general meeting and it was decided to review their mission statement. The current one is Arts Upper Hunter's purpose is to nurture creativity and cultural enrichment in all Upper Hunter communities. It was thought this should be modified to highlight the connection between the afore mentioned and social and economic well being, ie that art and cultural practice directly translate into social well bring at the same time having economic ramifications, jobs for artists, people coming to town to either look at or participate in events, enable people to go out of an evening, and so on. Recent examples such as the Turning the Pages River day demonstrate this. All of these things boost the local economy. The board feels that modifying this statement will help clarify why we as an organisation are here and what we do. My job description



is to assist the Arts~Upper Hunter board in promoting and facilitating community cultural development throughout the region. My interpretation of this is that I am to work with artists, community groups, councils – any person, to help them develop their ideas, put on events, learn how to samba, write a book and get it published, be able to have fun and maybe cry occasionally. I want to do this because without being able to do these things we are empty, skeletons and shells rattling around... So thank you to Pamille for reminding us of this.

To return to the rational world there was also a day spent on the practicalities of setting up public arts projects. How you do them and interestingly what I learnt from the participants was how so much of the problem in getting these sorts of projects off the ground is fear. Fear of the unknown, fear that a monster will be born a big, horrible, ugly thing that will also tie us up in budget over runs, possible law suits, and public outcry, not if you have a plan and a process to follow. Time spent in putting together a plan and a process can and will eliminate the fear, it puts in place a framework so everyone knows what their own role is and what the expectations are - and this is what Pamille demonstrated - how you can do that.



Sandra's entry in "Arrangement with Ribbon and Lace"

Then the Muswellbrook show, where 'our Sandra' took out the Championship Decorative Floral Exhibit, as well as a few other prizes! Congratulations to Sandra and to all those who participated in all the wild and wonderful opportunities that the show offers. I haven't heard how the lawn mowing contest went, you may remember us advertising it at the end of last year. When I first heard the idea, I had visions of skilled lawn mowers, sharpening their blades, and then tearing around paddocks making beautiful patterns and being judged on the cleanness of the cut, the ability to get close to obstacles etc... I had seen it having the potential to develop into something akin to synchronised swimming. However this was not the intent this year, the contest was designed to demonstrate skills

in being able to fang it, ie. get your ride on to go as fast as possible! Hope someone has some photos.

In the post Easter time zone there is also much movement on the film front. On Wednesday 2nd April The Black Balloon will be showing at the Majestic Cinema in Singleton. This is an Australian film starring the fabulous Toni Colette. It has four stars from Margaret Pomeranz and is only screening on Wednesday at 12.50pm and 7.40pm so don't miss out. The following Wednesday the ballet Swan lake will be simulcast live from the Sydney Opera House, also at the Majestic. The Majestic is part of the Australian Film Commission's digital regional screen program which is why they are able to do these things. I saw the Carmen performance pre Easter, which was fantastic you get behind the scenes interviews with performers and then the filming of the actual performance is superb. You see so much detail that you would not see if you were physically in the audience which really adds another dimension to the experience. The Scone film club are progressing well they are talking to people about equipment and funding so stay tuned, anyone wishing to help this group please contact Jayne Wintle on 6545 9005.

On the 13th&14th April we are looking forward to a visit from artists Sam Newstead, Leanne Thompson, Sonja Karl and Liz O'Reilly. They will be spending a couple of days in Merriwa, meeting people and getting a feel for the place. On Monday they will give a presentation of a project they did with the town of Gulargumbone a couple of years ago. The aim of their visit is for them to meet some people and get a bit of a feel for the place whilst also enabling members of the community to meet them and see how they work and see if there are ways in which they might like to work together. Should this happen we would then be in a position to plan a project and source funding.

April

1 to 22 Animal Tales Exhibition

Talented local artists will show their interpretations of the animals-in-art theme. at the new 89 Mayne Street Gallery, Gulgong. For details please call 6374 1178.

2 The Black Balloon

This Australian film received a standing ovation and a Crystal Bear Award as best feature film at the Berlin Film Festival. It is showing at the Majestic Cinema, Singleton. Tickets \$10 or \$7 each for a group of five. 12:50pm & 7:40pm. For more details see www.singletoncinemas.com.au

3 & 10 Baby Talk @ Your Library

The Upper Hunter Regional Library is holding a 20 minute per day programs to introduce books and language to babies aged between 3 & 15 months. These are being held at the Muswellbrook and Scone

events + festivals



libraries. For more details or to book your place call Muswellbrook 6543 1913 or Scone 6545 1451.

4 The Kia-Ora Concert

This concert will feature some of the Upper Hunter's most talented musicians, the Sydney Symphony Oboe Quintet, actor Daniel Cordaux and many more. It will be held at the Scone High School MPU, Gundy Rd, Scone at 6:00pm. Tickets \$10, and can be purchased from Landmark Townsend, Kelly Street, Scone.

5 Glendon Hall Market Day

Take a short trip out of town to experience true country hospitality. The Glendon Hall Market Day and Garage Sale is a great day out for all the family. A variety of stalls for you with home baked goods, bric-a-brac, home made gifts and bargains. Also available for purchase is beverages and a sausage sizzle. 9:00am - 2:00pm Glendon Hall, (897 Glendon Lane) Singleton.

8 Miss Lizzy Darbyshire BA (Hons) MA speaks on James Tissot: Master of Fashion and Frisson

Presented by the Scone Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society (ADFAS) Scone Arts and Crafts Hall, Kindgon St, Scone, 6 for 6:30pm. Light refreshments served. For details call Gail Bragg on 6543 4620 or Jill Richards on 6545 1822.

8-14 Youth Week Exhibition

Gloucester Gallery, Denison St, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, free entry. For details call 6558 3157.

9 Swan Lake Screening Live from Opera House

Graeme Murphy's internationally renowned interpretation of Swan Lake will be screened live via satellite from the Sydney Opera House to the Majestic Cinema in Singleton. This is a free event and the result of a partnership between ABC2 Live, The Australian Film Commission, The Australian Ballet and the Australian Council for the Arts.

Majestic Cinemas, 21 Ryan Ave, Singleton from 7.25pm. Free entry. To book please call 6571 5252.

11 Power Sisters Exhibition/Fundraiser

Michelle Power, Maureen Ward and Suzie Kirk combine forces to present an exhibition of oil landscapes, seascapes, jewellery and glasswork. TO be opened by Kevin Best OAM at 6:30 pm, at the Merriwa School of Arts. For details call 6548 2319.

11-13 Gum Ball Music and Arts Festival

The annual all age camp festival showcasing artists in all genres including blues, roots, rock, world folk. funk

dance, and visual arts. This year being held at a new site in Wollombi. For details visit www.thegumball.com.au

11-14 17th Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod

11 - 14 April - Vocal at Muswellbrook South Public School, for details call Rachel Ann on 6543 2667.

2008 Syllabus is now available from the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music, Information Centres or visit www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

12 "a little bit of Italy in Broke"

Come and celebrate the Grape and Olive Harvests, Italian food, music, wines, and other Italian experiences. Visit 9 businesses. Pick up your passport from the Broke Fire Station. 10am to 4pm. For details visit www.brokefordwich.com.au or call Eden Anthony 6579 1259.

12 Peter Markwick & Cheryl Tate 'A Fine Return' Opening of Exhibition at catbird gallery.

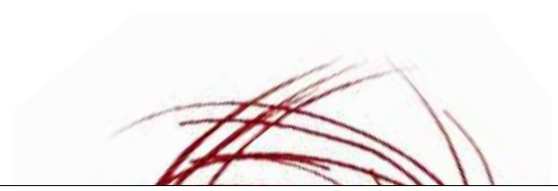
Cheryl and Peter's painting styles and subject matter are quite different which makes for a diverse and interesting joint exhibition. The exhibition runs until 4th May. catbird gallery, 211 Dowling St, Dungog. Phone 4992 2442.

12 Countryfest 2008

Come and see the Australian Wife Carrying Titles. The winning couple will receive a trip to Finland to compete at the WORLD Wife Carrying Titles. You don't have to be a married couple to enter, just as long as you bring your sense of fun. 9am - 11 pm Singleton Showground, Bathurst St., Singleton (02) 6572 2039



Swan Lake will be screened live via satellite from the Sydney Opera House to the Majestic Cinema.



13 Orchestra in the Chapel

TOPS (The Occasional Performing Symphonia) Orchestra from Sydney conducted by Mal Hewitt is performing. 2pm The Chapel Convent of Mercy, 30 Queen St, Singleton. For details or to book call Sr Monica Sinclair on 6572 2398.

14 Artist Presentation by Sam Newstead, Leanne Thompson, Sonja Karl and Liz O'Reilly

Come and be inspired. This will be a one hour slide show, to be held at the the Merriwa School of Arts, Bow St., Merriwa from 7pm.

For more details please contact Kate Sommerlad or Tess Hynes of the Upper Hunter Shire Council, Merriwa office on 6548 2109.

16-26 Billy and the Garbage Monsters (except 20th)

A trashy tale of repugnant refuse, wilting waste, rotten rubbish and jollyjunk. Meet Ted Veg Head, Reg Holden Mudguard, Gladys Bag and Billy Can. With a strong environmental message, original songs and a cast of Newcastle's finest actors O'Billy and the Garbage Monsters¹ will delight and challenge children and adults alike. Garbage never smelled so good! Presented by Shakespeare et al, written by Vanessa Bates & Brian Birkefeld and directed by Anne Frost. Being held at The Wetlands Centre Shortland, for booking or more details call 49516466.

19 Baerami Bush Dance

Bush Dance with traditional acoustic music at the wonderful Baerami Hall on the edge of the Wollemi National Park. Dances will be explained - you don't need a partner. BYO dinner and supper to share. Dancing starts after 7.30pm. Camp at the Hall or nearby accommodation. Leisurely Sunday morning guided bushwalk or bike ride. Bookings appreciated, on 6571 1208. Adults (pre-booked) \$15 Adults (at Door) \$20 Children Free.

20 Broke Community Markets

From 9:30am at McNamara Park. For stall information call Elizabeth Johnstone 0429 198 871

26 Gloucester Community Markets

Stalls include plants and herbs, timber products, crystals, orchids, jams, honey, food, drink and much more at Billabong Park. For details call Lorrain Atkins 6558 4136 or visit www.gloucestermarkets.com

April-May

1-4 Watters and Robba - Romancing the Landscape

This is an exhibition of new works by Leo Robba along with a rare collection of new and old work by Max Watters. Maitland Regional Art Gallery, open Tuesday to Sunday, free entry. For more details visit www.mrag.org.au

18-25 Adam Cullen: Pig Dogs & Rednecks

Adam Cullen is a unique figure in contemporary Australian art, a larger than life artist whose abrasive yet expressive paintings are a confronting and incisive view of contemporary life. At the same time, a major retrospective exhibition of Adam's work will on show at the Art Gallery of New South Wales 15th May till 27th July.

Michael Reid at Murrurundi, Boyd St. For details visit www.michaelreid.com.au or call 6546 6767.

14-11 "Gloucester Gone to War"

An exhibition of war memorabilia from the Boer War to World War II, which includes: historical photographers, medals, audio visual displays, flags, maps and uniforms. Cost adults \$5, and children \$2. Gloucester Gallery, Denison St, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call Barbara Stuart 6588 1080.

May

4 Operatic Gala with Peta Blyth and Ensemble

Come to a delightful afternoon of music selections from Opera, Operetta and musicals. School of Arts Merriwa, 2pm. Cost \$30.00 includes afternoon tea, \$20 for concession card holders. Contact Edith Shipway for tickets 6548 7201.

8, 10, 11, 14, 16 & 17 "Run for your Wife"

Muswellbrook Amateur Theatrical Society (MATS) is performing this favourite comedy by Ray Cooney. Muswellbrook Workers Club, tickets are \$15 and available from Inspirational Imaging in Muswellbrook.

11 Classical Vibes - Nick Parnell in Concert

The Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music presents one of Australia's leading percussionist performing music from his new CD, Classical Vibes.

For details call the conservatorium on 6541 4888, or email mailto:uhcm@hunterlink.net.au or visit <http://www.nickparnell.com/>

16-17 Gloucester Shakespeare Festival

There will be evening performances of Henry IV Part 1 on Friday and Saturday evenings, plus matinee performance on Saturday. A banquet is available both evenings. Market stalls and medieval entertainment all day Saturday. For more information contact the Gloucester Information Centre on the 6558 1408.

23-25 17th Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod, Instrumental

This is being held at the Muswellbrook South Public School and for details please call Vicki French on 6541 1433.

May -June**13-9 Ruth Smith Exhibition**

Gloucester Gallery, Denison St, Gloucester. Open Friday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, for details call 6558 3157.

24-29 Bloodlines - Art of the Horse

A traveling exhibition from the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery.

Plus a number of other exhibitions including "50 Years of The Muswellbrook Local and Family Historical Society"

Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Cnr of Bridge and Market Sts, ph 6549 3880, www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au

29-1 2008 Dungong Film Festival

Dedicated to promoting local film and filmmakers, the Dungog Film Festival showcases exclusively Australian films in a non-competitive environment and boasts an education program packed with stimulating workshops and seminars. For details visit www.dungogfilmfestival.org/

sheri's bon mot

"put your art works first, not as an appendage to your chores"

Anonymous

April**Open Culturehunter.org Volunteer Positions Call Out**

Culturehunter.org (the Hunter region arts and cultural website) is looking for volunteers to support the

development of the site: Forum Moderator, News Writer/Photographer, Marketing and Promotions Officer, and Web Designer. Go to www.culturehunter.org or call Jessie Ansons or Christina Robberds 02 4927 0470 for full details.

14 FTO's Office's Young Filmmakers Fund Grants Applications Close.

Since the inception of the Young Filmmakers Fund in 1995, the FTO has funded an exceptional range of 111 projects including short dramas, documentaries, animation and experimental films. For details contact Valerie Allerton, Coordinator YFF & Digital FX, on 9264-6400, or guidelines and application forms are available: <http://www.fto.nsw.gov.au/fund.asp?id=48>

30 Poets on Wheels Applications Close

Australian's best-known poetry touring project is taking to West of the Range NSW by train 16-23 October. Selected poets will be performing and running workshops in a range of venues from pubs to schools. For more details contact the Poets Union on 02 9357 6602, or email info@poetsunion.com

May**2 Waste as Art 2008 Final Registration Date**

Several categories including: 3D/sculpture, functional art, junior/primary school age groups, secondary age group and the interpretation of climate change. The overall winner will collect \$2500, and there are other cash prizes for each category. Entry forms and details available from Hunter Waste Education Group on 4908 6848 or visit www.hweg.com.au

30 CBCA(NSW) Frustrated Writers Mentoring Program Awards 2008, entries close.

Children's Book Council (NSW) Frustrated Writers Mentoring Program awards for 2008 are now open for all unpublished writers living in NSW and writing for children. Three categories of writers: Junior (under 15 years), Young Adult (15 to 20) and Senior (over 20). All kinds of writing are acceptable as entries and appropriate mentors are carefully chosen to help award winners to improve their work. For details visit www.cbc.org.au/nsw.

30 ArtsHealth Symposium #1- Call for Papers

Interested scholars and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts of 300 words for 20-minute papers responding to the following themes:

1. Reflections on Arts and Health
2. Practice as Research: The Arts Health Perspective
3. Medical Humanities and Ethics
4. Art and Critical Thinking in the Community



For details email Catherine Oddie, catherine.oddie@newcastle.edu.au

April

Open Community Heritage Grants

The National Library of Australia's, Community Heritage Grants (CHG) Program aims to preserve and provide access to locally held nationally significant cultural heritage collections across Australia. Grants of up to \$10,000 available. For details phone The Coordinator on 6262 1147 or visit <http://www.nla.gov.au/chg>. Applications closes 6th June.

18 Artist in Residency + \$3000 stipend for NSW Artist with a Disability.

Accessible Arts in partnership with the Bundanon Trust are providing an artist in residency opportunity for a NSW artist with a disability. The successful applicant will undertake the residency at Bundanon (the Arthur Boyd property) in November 2008 and will receive a \$3000 stipend to undertake the residency. For details contact Josie Cavallaro, Accessible Arts on (02) 9251 6499 or email jcavallaro@aarts.net.au or visit <http://www.bundanon.com.au/>

May

12 Small Grants for Indigenous Groups Applications Close

Grants of up to \$5000 are available for Indigenous organisations and organisations that work with Indigenous people and communities aged 12-25 years. Funding may be sought to develop new initiatives or to support the expansion of existing programs. The focus of The Foundation is on initiatives that result in meaningful change for young people. For details visit <http://www.youngaustralians.org>

26 Graham F Smith Peace Trust Applications Close

Applications are invited from individuals and organisations for arts projects that promote peace, justice, and care for the environment. Major projects annual funding of up to \$5,000 is available in addition to year-round small scale projects funding of up to \$1,500. For more information please visit <http://www.artspeacetrust.org/projects/#fund>

April

Open - How to Buy & Sell Art

The greatly revised and updated edition, is now available for purchase from the Michael Reid at Murrurundi's website. Visit www.michaelreid.com and select Publications. And whilst you are there you may like to download the latest Private Client Art Newsletter.

8 "Now Sell Like Crazy" Workshop - Free

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) presents a series of dynamic growth strategy workshops for women who own and manage a small business. The workshops focus on some key issues facing business today – innovation, sustainability and technology.

9.30 am – 1.00 pm, Industry Development Centre. The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan. For registration and further information contact: DSRD Newcastle on phone (02) 4908 7333, or email laila.christensen@business.nsw.gov.au

Various - Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre Training courses

13th May - Photoshop 1, fee \$45
24th June - Photoshop 2, fee \$45
5th August - Working With Digital Media (4 weeks), fee \$190
Expressions of Interest are being taken for Digital Camera & Photo Manipulation. For details please call 6545 2562 or email snrc@hunterlink.net.au.

Various - Art Classes in Maitland

Maitland Region Society of Artists are holding the following classes:
12th April - Watercolour with Catherine Turner \$30
17th May - Oil and or Pastel with Gwendoline Lewis \$25
21st June - Drawing with Elizabeth Greedy \$25
For details please call Barry on 4932 8964.
They are starting a beginners class for adults and for more information call Marie on 4934 1353.

grants + residencies

not to miss

Artsbark is the bi-monthly publication of Arts Upper Hunter Inc. supported by the Gloucester, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shires and Arts NSW.

Artsbark draws on information from local, state and national arts organisations. We thank you and welcome your contribution.

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